Rev. Samuel May, of Leicester, Mass. being in England in the summer of 1843, attended the annual meeting ~~held~~ of the Western Unitarian Conference, held at Taunton in July of that year, and was invited to speak, particularly upon the question of Slavery in America, & the attitude of the Unitarian churches there respecting it. He did so, mentioning the ~~[illegible]~~ names of Channing, Worcester, Ware, Follen, Pierpont, Furness, ~~[illegible]~~ S.J. May, & others of the American Unitarian ministers, who at that ~~[illegible]~~ time had borne ~~[illegible]~~ testimony against the Sin, ~~and the~~ dishonor, and disgrace of Slavery; ~~also he~~ spoke also of the apparent indifference, or open opposition, of the great majority of the denomination to any ~~[illegible]~~ agitation of the subject. He spoke of the especial duty of American Unitarians ~~[illegible]~~ to come to the support of the Anti-slavery cause, and ~~[illegible]~~ said that their English Unitarian brethren should feel

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moved to address them a letter of fraternal
Counsel and entreaty upon the subject,
he believed it would be gladly received
by many in America, and could not fail
to do good. The suggestion was well
received, on the spot, by such gentlemen
as Rev. Mr. Acton of Exeter, Rev. Messrs
Armstrong and James of Bristol, & others;
and, very soon after, among the laymen,
by ~~Little~~ John Bishop Estlin Esq. of Bristol,
an eminent Surgeon & oculist of the West of
England, & prominent Unitarian, Joseph
Lupton Esq. of Leeds, &c. & many more.

Dated the 1st. December 1843

There was subsequently sent to America
"An Address," from the undersigned
Unitarian Ministers of Great
Britain and Ireland, to their
Ministerial Brethren of the Unitarian
Churches in the United States of
North America." It was upon
the subject of Slavery, and was a most-
eloquent, manly, affectionate, and in
all respects Christian letter. It was
signed by One Hundred and Eighty Five
Unitarian Ministers of England, Scotland, Wales, & Ireland.

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BOSTON, 221, WASHINGTON STREET,
Dec. 26, 1863.

DEAR SIR,

Herewith I send you a copy of a PETITION TO CONGRESS now in session. It has been drawn up, after consultation with persons representing various parties and denominations, with the single view of uniting the loyal and anti-slavery sentiment of the country upon that one object, in obtaining which we destroy the rebellion at its tap-root, secure the future union of these States under a genuine "republican form of government," and ensure (so far as is humanly possible) future harmony, peace, and prosperity throughout our country.

The form of Petition sent, and the object it seeks, have the full approval, and will have the cordial support, of the truest friends of the Government and Country now in Congress. Indeed, some of the most eminent of their number have publicly advised and warmly urged this action.

The Petition is sent extensively to clergymen, of all denominations; and we earnestly entreat all ministers of the gospel to make it the subject of a special appeal to their several congregations, at an early day.

Will *you*, dear sir, give your personal aid and influence in circulating the Petition in your town, — calling attention to it, and obtaining for it the largest possible signature? It relates to a matter of vital importance. Both President and Congress desire and need a direct expression of the mind of the people. The exigencies of the time point to this action as absolutely necessary to a speedy, honorable, and successful ending of the war.

For Liberty and for our Country,

Yours,

SAMUEL MAY, JUN.

This address was rec'd., I think, in the month of ~~March or April~~ January 1844; and, as my recollection goes, a special Meeting of Unitarian Ministers to consider it was held in Boston (in Feb.?) & Comtee. was appointed to reply to the same, of whom Rev. S. K. Lothrop is the only one I now recal. Great delay occurred in getting the signatures to it; but a letter to me from Rev. Dr. Lothrop dated Boston Sept. 24, 1844, in reply to an inquiry of mine, says that "at least one hundred and forty signatures" had been then sent in, and the reply was ~~probably~~ to be sent forward ~~that week~~ without loss of time.

[S. J. M. by reference to files of "Liberator", & "Chr. Register", might identify & fix the dates above.]

On the discussion & action in the A. U. A., May 1844, I send "3 papers", by themselves.

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